

Results of Consultation

We've heard your views.

This long-term plan was adopted in June 2009 following extensive community consultation extending back over many months.

Early engagement

During late 2008 and early 2009 we held roadshows, created a Facebook page, ran a phone 'hotline' and ward clinics so residents could talk directly with the mayor and councillors, established a website including discussion boards and a budget simulator, conducted a survey, published booklets highlighting our overall approach, and held meetings and hui.

We also established a residents' panel – a forum of 40+ residents to discuss the key issues facing the city. The members were selected with a view to composing a diverse panel that reflected broadly the demographic characteristics of the Wellington community. They were selected in three ways: (i) from Council stakeholder groups; (ii) self nominated; and (iii) drawn from the community by a research company.

Consultation on the long-term plan

After considering the results of this early engagement, in May 2009 we published a draft long-term plan. This set out the direction we're taking the city in, our budgets and services for the coming decade, and how we intend to fund those services.

The draft plan and summaries were sent to community organisations and made available in libraries, community centres and on our website. Information about the plan was published in Council publications including the Our Wellington page in the Dominion Post, and the Absolutely Positively Wellington newspaper.

We also held community meetings to inform residents and take questions about the plan.

We received 503 written submissions on the draft plan, and councillors heard oral submissions from 138 people and organisations.

Submitters expressed a wide range of views.

We had proposed to make modest savings on some Council services, for example parks and swimming pools. In general, submitters opposed these proposals – highlighting the challenge of balancing the demands of some residents for increased services against the need to keep overall rates bills affordable. The Council after considering all the information has opted to go ahead with the proposed savings.

The feedback we received during consultation influenced Councillors' decisions.

The programme outlined in the final plan is not the same as the one outlined in the draft. Key changes include:

- We're increasing our funding to progress strategic cycle and walking networks in the city. We've budgeted \$250,000 in 2009/10 and \$500,000 from 2011 onwards.
- We've committed an additional \$200,000 per year (for three years only) to the NZ Festival of the Arts to retain their schedule of programmes and exhibitions.
- We've provided \$75,000 in 2009/10 for the Creative Capital Trust to be established who will manage the Cuba Street Carnival and the Fringe Festival.
- We've provided additional funding support of \$50,000 per year to deliver more Maori cultural festivals.
- We're supporting the Marine Education Trust with up to \$450,000 in 2009/2010 to conduct a feasibility study for establishing a Marine Education Centre in Lyall Bay.
- In partnership with government agencies we're supporting the development of a wet hostel in Wellington. We have budgeted \$250,000 in 2009/10 for this work to be progressed.

- We've provided additional funding support to Zeal to help fit out of their new accommodation in Ghuznee Street. We have budgeted \$50,000 for this in 2009/10.
- We're providing additional funding to Positively Wellington Tourism to allow them to grow the Australian tourism market. We have budgeted \$2,576,000 for this over the next three years.
- We're working with the Ministry of Education and the community to allow for a playground and outdoor recreation space at the new Churton Park school to be made available to the wider community when not in use by the school. We're providing funding of \$812,500 in 2010/11.
- We've provided additional funding to make improvements to the Adelaide Road precinct to accommodate bus lanes, improve transport linkages, and prepare the precinct for urban intensification. Funding of \$12.568 million has been allocated over the next ten years.

During the consultation period, the Council extended funding for: the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, for upgrading the Carter Observatory as a visitor attraction, and to restore the Golden Mile and a proposal to reopen Manners Mall to buses.

We have developed this plan within tight budgetary parameters. Any accommodation of further funding requests would have increased the rates rise.